

## **REMARKS**

As a preliminary matter, Applicant notes that independent Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite that the roughness of the bottom surface of the airflow guide part is greater than the roughness of a surface of the flow path. Support for these claim amendments can be found in the Specification, as originally filed, on, for example, page 12, lines 4-6. Accordingly, no new matter is being added.

Claims 1-6, 11-16, 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,072,662 to Utsunomiya in view of United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0075599 to Rao et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the claimed features of the present invention. More specifically, the cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a head slider that includes, *inter alia*, an airflow guide part formed in a flow path through which the airflow passes, and in which “roughness of a bottom surface of the airflow guide part is greater than roughness of a surface of the flow path,” as now defined in amended independent Claims 1 and 11.

Applicant’s Figures 1 and 2A-2C show one example of an embodiment of the present invention as defined in independent Claims 1 and 11. These figures show a head slider 10 with a disk-facing surface 12 having an air bearing surface 40/42 raised from the disk-facing surface 12. These figures also show an airflow guide part 52 formed in a flow path 34 through which the airflow 28 passes (Figure 2B). Further, as shown in

the Figure 2C view of this embodiment, the airflow guide part 52 has a bottom surface 52c whose roughness is greater than the roughness of a surface of the flow path 34. Because of this, while passing through the flow path 34, the airflow moving along the disk-facing surface 12 is attracted by and flows into the left guide groove 52a and the right guide groove 52b, each having a bottom surface with surface roughness greater than that of the flow path. Also, any dust moved by the airflow positively flows into the left guide groove 52a and the right guide groove 52b and is discharged from the left and right side surfaces, respectively, of the slider in the lateral directions.

In contrast, neither the Utsunomiya reference nor the Rao et al. reference disclose or suggest a slider in which “roughness of a bottom surface of the airflow guide part is greater than roughness of a surface of the flow path,” as now defined in amended independent Claims 1 and 11. More specifically, in the Office Action, the Examiner equated furrow 94 of Figure 3 of Rao et al. with the claimed first guide groove of the airflow guide part. However, even assuming *arguendo* that furrow 94 of Rao et al. could be considered as corresponding to the claimed airflow guide part, furrow 94 is not disclosed as including a bottom surface whose roughness is greater than roughness of a surface of the flow path, as now defined in amended independent Claims 1 and 11. Nor is there any suggestion of modifying furrow 94 of Rao et al. to include a bottom surface whose roughness is greater than roughness of a surface of the flow path. Accordingly, as all of the features defined in amended independent Claims 1 and 11 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited references, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this

§103 rejection of independent Claims 1 and 11 and associated dependent Claims 2-6, 12-16, 21 and 22.

Claims 7-10 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Utsunomiya in view of Rao et al., and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,801,399 to Nakano. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

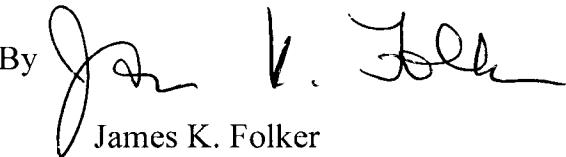
Claims 7-10 and 17-20 all depend, directly or indirectly, from either independent Claim 1 or from independent Claim 11, and therefore include all of the features of either Claim 1 or Claim 11, plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this §103 rejection be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to independent Claims 1 and 11, and also because the Nakano reference does not remedy the deficiencies discussed above, nor was it relied upon as such.

For all of the above reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

If a Petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response is required to make the attached response timely, it is hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response in the above-identified application for the period required to make the attached response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069.

Respectfully submitted,

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October 28, 2008

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